

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256619

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

TOSEC 206

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 9364 ACTION SECSTATE 20 NOVEMBER.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9364

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MIDDENDORF, SECNAV)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO CAIRO OF SECNAV MIDDENDORF

REF: STATE 254676

1. WHEN MENTIONING SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL TO SIRRI THIS MORN-
ING, HE COMMENTED THAT HIS IMPRESSION IS A FORMAL INVITATION
HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SECNAV MIDDENDORF. HE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED
BACK TO RELATE THE FOLLOWING:

2. ON JULY 30, GHORBAL AND EGYPTIAN NAVAL ATTACHE LUNCHEDED WITH
MIDDENDORF AT WHICH TIME THE LATTER INDICATED HE PLANNED EARLY
SEPTEMBER TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST AND WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SUEZ
CANAL CLEARANCE OPERATIONS. GHORBAL REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION
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THAT SECNAV WOULD LIKE TO COME ON GOE INVITATION. IN MID-

AUGUST, SECNAV AGAIN INFORMED GHORBAL THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO STOP OVER IN EGYPT TO SEE THE CLEARANCE OPERATION. IN RESPONSE, GOE EXTENDED INVITATION THAT HE BE ITS GUEST. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY THE EARLY SEPTEMBER VISIT THAT DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

3. IN MID-NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO MFA REPORTS, SECNAV AGAIN APPROACHED GHORBAL TO INDICATE THAT SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE JUST ABOUT ENDED AND HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT EGYPT. HE RECALLED THAT EARLIER VISIT PLANS HAD ABORTED AND NOW PROPOSED NOV 25-27 DATES. EGYPTIANS WERE EVEN GIVEN HIS FLIGHT NUMBERS. MIDDENDORF ALSO INDICATED HE WISHED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. MFA SENT THE REPORT TO EGYPTIAN MILITARY, WHICH REPLIED THAT IT WOULD WELCOME SECNAV VISIT AND THAT HE WOULD BE GUEST OF GOE ARMED FORCES. PROGRAM WOULD BE PREPARED BY MINWAR IN COOPERATION WITH AMEMBASSY DATT.

4. SIRRI ALSO PASSED ON FAHMY'S QUERY WHY SECRETARY KISSINGER DECIDED SECNAV SHOULD NOT VISIT EGYPT AT THIS TIME.

5. COMMENT: IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT SECNAV DID NOT HANDLE PROPOSED VISIT THROUGH PROPER CLEARANCE CHANNELS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE MATTER HAS NOW REACHED A STAGE WHERE A FORMAL GOE INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED, EGYPTIAN ARE LIKELY TO TAKE AMISS A SECOND CANCELLATION OF SECNAV VISIT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE SECNAV AND GHORBAL SHOULD BOTH BE REMINDED THAT OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO SENIOR USG OFFICIALS SHOULD BE EXTENDED THROUGH STATE, I BELIEVE THE DECISION THAT SECNAV SHOULD NOT COME ON THE DATES HE HAS PROPOSED AND ON WHICH THE GOE NOW EXPECTS HIM SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO AUTHORIZE HIS TRAVEL, I BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT SECNAV BE GIVEN THOROUGH BRIEFING PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE SO THAT HE KNOWS OUR POLICY AND MAKES NO REAL OR IMPLIED COMMITMENTS THAT WE ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO MEET.
EILTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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